

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CCO-00 /049 W

----- 031074

O 150911Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4230

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

CINCPAC HON IMMEDIATE

USSAG 7AF IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T BANGKOK 8822

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: MILI, MOPS, TH

SUBJ: SINKING OF CAMBODIAN SHIPS

1. DURING COURSE OF MORNING MAY 15, RTG SPOKESMAN TOLD PRESS US PLANES THAT HAD SUNK CAMBODIAN SHIPS DURING MAYAGUEZ ACTION WERE NOT RPT NOT BASED IN THAILAND. THAI MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS SUBSEQUENTLY CONTACTED US IN HOPE OF CONFIRMING THIS, SAYING INFORMATION ON WHICH STATEMENT WAS BASED HAD BEEN SUPPLIED BY SUPREME COMMAND.
2. WE CONTACTED SUPREME COMMAND AND ASCERTAINED THAT IT HAD IN FACT SUPPLIED SUCH INFORMATION TO MFA.
3. AFTER TELLING SUPREME COMMAND HOW WE PROPOSED HANDLE MATTER WITH MFA, WE ADVISED MFA THAT WE WERE UNABLE TO CONFIRM OR DENY STATEMENT THAT AIRCRAFT IN QUESTION WERE NOT THAI-BASED. WE POINTED OUT THAT CARRIER CORAL SEA HAD ALSO BEEN IN AREA, AND THAT IN HEAT OF ACTION, IT WAS DIFFICULT TO ASCERTAIN WHAT PLANES HAD COME FROM WHERE. WE EXPRESSED VIEW THAT GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SHOULD NOT FURTHER BOX HIMSELF

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IN. MFA SPOKESMAN SHORTLY THEREAFTER ISSUED STATEMENT

OF HIS OWN, SAYING HE HAD BEEN ADVISED BY U.S. CHARGE
THAT PLANES HAD COME FROM "VARIOUS BASES IN AREA."

4. RTG IS OBVIOUSLY SEEKING TO MINIMIZE DAMAGE THAT
ENTIRE MAYAGUEZ EPISODE WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY
CAUSE, NOT ONLY TO THAILAND'S RELATIONS WITH CAMBODIA
AND VIETNAM, BUT ALSO TO THAI-US RELATIONS. ALTHOUGH
WE RECONGIZE DIFFICULTY, WE URGE THAT U.S. OFFICIAL
SPOKESMEN SEEK TO OBSCURE ORIGIN OF U.S. TACTICAL
AIRCRAFT THAT SANK CAMBODIAN SHIPS.
WHITEHOUSE

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, NAVAL COMBAT OPERATIONS, MAYAGUEZ SS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BANGKO08822
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X3
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750170-0975
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750546/aaaabprry.tel
Line Count: 72
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 JUL 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <20 NOV 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SINKING OF CAMBODIAN SHIPS
TAGS: MILI, MOPS, TH, CB, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006